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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9413
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4685
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AMCONSUL DANANG 1206
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2866

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SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE: OCTOBER 23 SESSION

1. UPPER HOUSE MET MORNING OCTOBER 23 SESSION

1. UPPER HOUSE MET MORNING OCTOBER 23 TO DRAFT

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MESSAGES TO "PEOPLE OF THE NATION" AND TO INTERNATIONAL
PARLIAMENTARY UNION. SENATORS ALSO VOTED TO REQUEST
ASSISTANCE FROM EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN ESTABLISHING AN
UPPER HOUSE "PRESS LIAISON OFFICE", AND MADE PLANS
TO SEND DELEGATIONS TO VISIT FRONT-LINE SOLDIERS AND
FLOOD VICTIMS (VISITS WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE
JOINTLY WITH MEMBERS OF LOWER HOUSE).
2. MESSAGE TO PEOPLE OF NATION WAS APPROVED FOLLOWING

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AN OCCASIONALLY HEATED DEBATE ON WORDING. AMONG POINTS AT ISSUE WERE REFERENCE TO "COLONIALISM" AS CAUSE OF WAR (SOME FELT ITS INCLUSION MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED) AND STATEMENT THAT UPPER HOUSE IS CONCERNED FOR HARDSHIPS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE (TRAN DIEN SAID IF UPPER HOUSE WERE GENUINELY CONCERNED IT SHOULD EITHER PROPOSE A HALT TO BOMBING OR AN INVASION TO LIBERATE THE NORTH; BOTH ARE IMPOSSIBLE, SAID DIEN, SO MESSAGE SHOULD NOT EXPRESS CONCERN FOR PLIGHT OF NORTHERNERS).
3. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF UPPER HOUSE MESSAGE "TO COMPATRIOTS WITHIN AND

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OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY".
QUOTE: CONSCIOUS OF THE HISTORICAL MISSION WHICH THE PEOPLE DELEGATED TO US IN THE ELECTION OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1967, WE, SENATORS OF VIET-NAM, MEETING IN SAIGON, RESPECTFULLY SEND TO OUR COMPATRIOTS AT HOME AND ABROAD OUR AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS AND AN EXPRESSION OF OUR DETERMINATION TO BE OF SERVICE.
IN THE FACE OF THE PITEOUS SCENES OF A WAR, CAUSED BY COLONIALISM AND THEN BY COMMUNIST AGRESSION, WHICH HAS LASTED FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AND IS STILL NOT ENDED, THE TASK OF SAVING, RESTORING AND UNIFYING OUR COUNTRY CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A TOTAL EFFORT OF THE PEOPLE. IF THAT IS TO BE DONE, THE DESTINY OF OUR COUNTRY MUST BE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE, THE RIGHT OF NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION MUST BE ABSOLUTELY RESPECTED.
THE PROBLEM OF WAR AND PEACE MUST BE SOLVED, AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND HONOR.

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THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SOCIETY MUST BE VIGOROUSLY

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AND CORRECTLY PURSUED IN ITS EVERY ASPECT IN ORDER
TO BRING TO THE PEOPLE PROSPERITY, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE.
NATIONAL POLICY MUST BE BASED ON THE FOUNDATION OF
TRUE UNITY, IN ORDER TO BRING TOGETHER ALL THE PEOPLE
IN A COMMUNITY OF CONCORD AND STRENGTH STRUGGLING
AGAINST COMMUNISM AND DICTATORSHIP IN ORDER TO SURVIVE
AND PROGRESS.
WITH THE ABOVE POINTS OF VIEW, THE UPPER HOUSE
WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMPLETION OF THE DEMOCRATIC
AGENCIES PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION, IN ORDER,
ALONG WITH THOSE AGENCIES, TO ESTABLISH A NECESSARY
ERA OF STABILITY AND TO FORMULATE POLICIES WHICH
WILL MOST EFFECTIVELY SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE
PEOPLE. THE UPPER HOUSE ALSO SYMPATHIZES WITH,
AND TAKES SPECIAL NOTE OF, THE HARDSHIPS WHICH THE
COMPATRIOTS OF NORTH VIET-NAM ARE ENDURING UNDER THE
VERY SEVERE COMMUNIST REGIME.
WITH CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE FATHERLAND,
AND IN THE PATRIOTISM OF OUR PEOPLE, WE, IN ALL

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SINCERITY, PLEDGE TO FULFILL THE RESPONSIBILITIES
WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN US.
RESPECTFULLY YOURS, UNQUOTE.

4. MESSAGE TO INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION
WAS APPROVED AFTER MINIMAL DISCUSSION. THERE
WAS SOME DISCONTENT AT ITS RATHER BLAND WORDING;
BUI VAN GIAI ARGUED THAT MESSAGE SHOULD MORE CLEARLY
EXPRESS ANTI-COMMUNIST POSITION OF UPPER HOUSE.
MAJORITY, HOWEVER, AGREED WITH DRAFTING COMMITTEE
WHICH HELD THAT LIAISON WITH I.P.U., WHICH INCLUDES
SOME COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, SHOULD BE KEPT "NON-
POLITICAL". FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF
UPPER HOUSE MESSAGE TO I.P.U.:

QUOTE: TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE -
I.P.U. GENEVA:

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THE FIRST UPPER HOUSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM, ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1967, MEETING IN SAIGON, RESPECTFULLY SENDS ITS GREETINGS TO YOU MR. SECRETARY, AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION.

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IN OUR EFFORTS TO BUILD DEMOCRACY IN VIET-NAM, WE HOPE FOR CONTINUING CONTACT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN ORDER TO TIGHTEN THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND SENATORS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM. UNQUOTE. BUNKER

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